The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1910.

ON FIGHTING GROUND.

The old line Republicans taught the so-called "Progressives" a very striking lesson at the convention in Columbus yesterday. They carried everything their own way and trampled on the feelings of Garfield just as if he were not one of the anointed and appointed by the Providence at Oyster Bay to lead the forces of conservation against the enemies of progress. Garfield was not even nominated for Governor, and Nick Longworth, who declared himself on Tuesday in his speech as temporary chairman as an out-and-outer stand-patter all-round Administration man, was not allowed to become an active candidate. He could have had the nomination if he would have taken it; but he didn't want it and wouldn't have it and wouldn't have been allowed to take it if he had wanted it.

The convention did a wise thing, in our opinion, when it turned down the Garfield gang and all its works and nominated Warren G. Harding at the head of the ticket. It also did a wise thing when it came out flat-footed for Taft and his administration and endorsed all that he has done, and placed the party in Ohio on record for his renomination for President in 1912; not that his administration deserves endorsement, looking at it from the other point of view, but because it puts the fight up squarely to the Democrats who will know now what they are fighting and how they must fight. The position of the enemy having been discovered, we shall be able to dislodge him and can lay our plans of battle accordingly.

The platform places the Republican party at the start on the defensive. It makes the tariff the leading issue of the next Presidential campaign, and upon this issue the Democrats will have an abundance of ammunition supplied by the most eminent speakers and statesmen of the Republican party. It exposes the recent report of Wickersham to proceed against the railroads by injunction in the freight matter as a political question, the "prompt and successful intervention to prevent arbitrary increases in railroad freight rates," which the party applaud, being, in fact, mere platform thunder. It exposes the indictment of the cotton pool to a Presidential issue, when it can be shown and will be shown that this is a sectional question. It speaks in high praise of the conviction of sugar thieves, most of whom belonged to the party in power, and as their conviction could have been avoided in the circumstances. But the tariff is the thing, and Governor Harmon will be able to play the mischief with it, if he shall be elected Governor of Ohio this year, in his race for President in 1912.

It will be observed that the platform has little or nothing to say about the issues in the State campaign. It is almost wholly National in scope and purpose, which promises well for the Democrats in the Ohio elections this year. It will be time enough for them to take up the larger questions after they have secured control of the State in local affairs. It is entirely satisfactory to us, because it puts the triflers out of the way and clears the ground for real fighting in the next National campaign.

Mr. Harding, the Republican candidate for Governor, is a newspaper man, editor and publisher of the Marion Evening Star, and there is something significant in the name—the evening stars are in the act of setting. Besides, if some of the politicians we have known in other States had only be engaged for the campaign in Ohio, what an outcry they would start about "Government by newspapers." Harding is doubtless a very good man in his business, but he will find before the summer is over his circulation is sluggish and in November that he has missed the mail.

THE NORTHERN NECK.

The Fredericksburg Daily Star says very much that "the agitation of the construction of a railroad through the Northern Neck of Virginia will prove successful."

There is no greater trucking section in Virginia than the Northern Neck, not even excepting the vicinity of Norfolk, and yet it is undeveloped for lack of transportation facilities. All kinds of small fruits and vegetables grow early and in lavish profusion in this naturally favored section, and yet the people is denied them on account of lack of facilities to get them out except by the boat line to Baltimore. In addition trade which ought to come to Fredericksburg and Richmond goes to Baltimore and Northern cities. A railroad up the Northern Neck would, in a short time, we believe, be a paying proposition to its owners and at the same time it would bring prosperity to a section which nature has favored abundantly. The question has often been agitated before, but without results. The Northern Neck is absolutely shut off from any commercial relations with Richmond. It trades entirely with Baltimore. It ought to be in close and regular communication with this town. It will be, if those who are particularly charged with the development of Richmond's commercial territory go to work on the project and keep after it until the road is built. It is believed that there would be abundant traffic in the Northern Neck country to make the construction of the projected railroad a profitable undertaking.

BLIND SAMSON AT THE TEMPLE.

In 1896 there were thirty-nine Democrats, five Independents and forty-two Republicans in the United States Senate. In the House there were 104 Democrats, seven Independents and 244 Republicans. In 1910 there are thirty-two Democrats in the Senate and sixty Republicans. In the House there are 172 Democrats and 219 Republicans. In 1896 there were twenty-four Democratic Governors; in 1910 there are twenty. In 1896 there were Democratic Governors in California, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico and Utah; in 1910 the Governors of all these States are Republicans. Connecticut, which voted for Tilden in 1876 and for Cleveland in 1884, in 1888 and in 1892, voted against Bryan in 1896, 1900 and 1908. It was the same with New Jersey. States which were originally in the Democratic column, or were at least fighting ground, are now "safely Republican."

A strong, vigorous, hopeful, fighting party has been reduced into a mere political machine in States which cannot, in their peculiar circumstances, help themselves. In the last election Missouri cast its vote for the Republican candidate; Maryland was saved for the Democratic ticket by only about 2,000 votes, and Kentucky was kept in line by a majority of about 8,000.

The South has stood by Bryan to the last. In 1908 it cast 1,530,724 votes for him, but at the same election it cast 1,111,150 votes for Taft. Cut out the vote of the South for both candidates, and it will be seen that there is a majority of 1,664,068 people in the rest of the United States who do not want Mr. Bryan and will not have him. This proves, among other things, that the South cannot elect anybody President who is not satisfactory to the remainder of the country. Mr. Bryan received at the last election 162 electoral votes. Counting Oklahoma as a Southern State, 146 of these electoral votes came from the South, and only sixteen from all the rest of the country. The only States he carried outside of the South were Colorado, Nebraska and Nevada, and now he has lost Nebraska, which has eight electoral votes, or as many as both Colorado and Nevada together. If he should be the candidate in 1912, he would probably lose Colorado and wind up with the vote of Nevada.

It was said at Grand Island the other day that Mr. Bryan has worked for the party for twenty years without getting anything for it. It is quite evident that the party has got nothing for it except ruin, and now it is reported that in his impassioned speech (he never makes any other sort) to the convention he declared: "I expect to be in politics for many years yet. I expect to aid in the work of the Democratic party." We all know what that means, but we are still for him to the end. Now is the time to subscribe to The Commoner.

THE POINT OF VIEW.

The Montgomery Advertiser has some sort of Grievance against the Baltimore Manufacturers' Record, because, as it avers, the Record is "ever and eternally picking at anyone or any attempt that is made to benefit the South." Recently Dr. Wickliffe Rose, Executive Secretary of the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission, visited Montgomery. He refused to be interviewed touching his work, saying that he did not want to appear any more than he could help, and would be grateful if the Advertiser would obtain from the State Medical Board such information as it wished as to the efforts being made for the eradication of the hookworm disease in that State. Dr. Rose, however, told an interesting story about the work of the Commission in Porto Rico, and the Advertiser published the story; "for there are ignorant persons in Alabama as well as in Porto Rico."

The Advertiser now alleges that "the Manufacturers' Record seized on the story as the basis for an attack on Dr. Rose, why? it is impossible to say;" and then the Advertiser concludes: "It has mercilessly hammered the great Southern Commercial Congress, the Mississippi immigration movement, and, in fact, seems centered these days on establishing a reputation for 'knocking' everything that tends to better Southern conditions."

The Advertiser concedes, however, that the good the Record does "in publishing statistics and massed industrial news is obvious;" but it complains that "the editorial page so often contains a snarl or a snap at other persons or institutions that would help."

Probably so. But it must be said that the Manufacturers' Record knows the Industrial South better possibly than any other newspaper published in the South. It has been a faithful worker for this region of the country for many years. It has now entered upon its 58th volume, and there has never been a worthy Southern industry or a worthy Southern interest which it has not promoted. At times doubtless it has been extra-free in its criticism and possibly at fault in its judgment, but it has proceeded upon the very safe and sound principle that self-help is the best help the South can have in the development of its material, its educational and its political resources.

Complaint has been made in Alabama, as our contemporary doubtless knows, at the conduct of its own editorial page, and if Reuben Kolb were here to testify he would doubtless insist that the Advertiser had printed on its editorial page many a snarl or snap at the work he was trying to do. Possibly, also, Governor Comer would testify to the same effect touching the Advertiser's editorial treatment of him and the work he was trying to do. Yet in both cases the Advertiser was entirely right. It was expressing its opinion of conditions and men and things, and expressing them in its way. It could not be expected to express them in some other paper's way.

We assume that the Manufacturers' Record feels its responsibility in such matters as fully as the Advertiser recognizes its responsibilities touching affairs in its own State and part of the country.

THE CRIME OF 1910.

The Crime of 1910 will now take its place along with The Crime of 1873, The Cross of Gold and other political paraphernalia of the Bryaniac Period of our Democracy. It used to be a matter of considerable study among the Enemy as to how many more campaigns "The Bloody Shirt" would stand, and that ensanguined garment has long since been retired from active service. We fear that the Democrats have not been quite so clever in the invention of their leading issues, and that they have overworked both The Crime of 1873 and The Cross of Gold; but there ought to be at least one Presidential campaign in The Crime of 1910.

PRESIDENT CHRISTIAN.

Judge George L. Christian was yesterday elected President of the Virginia Bar Association, and in honoring him the Association honored itself. "An honorable counsellor," a just Judge when he sat on the Bench, an eloquent and forceful speaker, a charming gentleman, a brave soldier and a public-spirited citizen, he is worthy of the high place to which he has been called by the lawyers of the State. It was in "the bloody angle" at Spottsylvania thirty-six years ago that he received his cross of the Legion of Honor, and from that day to this he has filled a high place in the affections of his people and in the confidence of the State. "Honor to whom honor!"

THE LAST MEETING OF COUNCIL.

The Common Council will hold its last meeting next Monday night, August 1, and a week later the Board of Aldermen will convene for the last time, and a new Common Council and a new Board of Aldermen will reign in their stead. The work will go on. Speaking generally, the retiring Councilmen and Aldermen have done much good work. They have been criticised freely on occasions, and sometimes without occasion. They have served without reward, and now that they are about to go hence, we would praise them for their worthy acts, their good intentions, their freedom from corruption, and welcome them back among the plain people who reserve to themselves the right to complain where they would utterly fail to perform.

The Council that has nearly run its course has done some things that it ought to have done and done them well; but it has left a number of things undone which it ought to do before the last curtain; things that it has provided for, but has not accomplished for one reason and another—hot weather, possibly, or previous engagements, or "that tired feeling," making it impossible to proceed with business at several recent meetings for lack of a quorum.

As we have said, the last meeting of the present Common Council will be held next Monday night, and the last meeting of the present Board of Aldermen will be held the succeeding Monday night. Every member of both bodies should be present at these finals to tie all their loose ends together and make a clean opening for their successors. Otherwise, a vast deal of important work they have done will be lost and the new Councilmen and Aldermen will have to go over it all again at the sacrifice of much time and the loss of all the work the present City Fathers have done. Full meetings of the retiring bodies is in the highest degree important and necessary, and it is hoped that all the members will be present when the rolls are called. In this way will they prove to their constituents that they have not been unmindful of the manners, customs and laws of the people.

A DESK WITH A HISTORY.

John Reuben Thompson was born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1823. He was graduated from the University of Virginia in 1844, entered the profession of law and practiced in Richmond. In 1847 he became editor of the Southern Literary Messenger, the most successful and representative periodical of its kind ever published in the South. He continued as editor of the Messenger for twelve years. In 1859 he moved to Augusta, Ga., to take editorial charge of the Southern Field and Fireside. In 1863 he went to London, "where he wrote for English magazines in defence of the Confederacy." After the war he returned to the United States, and became literary editor of the New York Evening Post, which office he filled until 1872. We are told that his poems enjoyed great local popularity, and that the most admirable among them was "The Burial of Latane" and "The Death of Sturt."

Last Spring when a visitor from Richmond was in the office of the Hartford Courant, the editor of The Courant, Dr. Charles Hopkins Clark, showed him the desk that belonged to Mr. Thompson during his stay in London, and suggested that it should have a permanent place with some historical society in Richmond. The desk was given to Watson R. Sperry, managing editor of the New York Evening Post, while Thompson was its literary editor. Sperry was a classmate of Dr. Clark's at Yale University, graduating from that institution in 18711. He was managing editor of the New York Evening Post, and then became owner and editor of the Wilmington (Del.) News. He was then Envoy-Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from this country to Persia for awhile, became associate editor of the Hartford Courant, and is now Foreign Correspondent of that newspaper, residing in Leipzig. Upon leaving the United States Mr. Sperry gave Thompson's desk to Dr. Clark, and Dr. Clark has now presented the desk to the Virginia Historical Society in Sperry's name.

In a note to Dr. Clark, giving the history of the desk to, Mr. Sperry writes:

"After his (Thompson's) return from London in the '90's, he became Literary Editor of the New York Evening Post, and I was employed on that paper, and, as our desks were near each other, we became good friends. He was taken ill with consumption when he returned to the United States, but he was patient, tranquil and cheerful, and full of interest in men and things. All I know about this desk is what he told me. In the books it is said that he went to England during the Civil War for literary purposes. He said, in the course of our acquaintance, that he was in England as a special agent of the Confederte Government with the view, as I understood it, of ascertaining and watching the state of England's opinion on the War, and that all his reports on this subject were written on this desk, and it sheltered whatever communications he received, and whatever memoranda he made. It was on account of this historic association that he brought the desk with him to New York, it having no value in itself. Since Thompson's death the desk has been continuously in my office until March, 1909, when, as I was leaving Hartford for England, I gave it to you, it being my opinion that the desk ought to remain in the United States."

The desk will remain in the United States and with the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, to which so many other invaluable historic objects belong. Dr. Clark will send the desk to Captain W. Gordon McCabe, the president of this Society, and it will be preserved and cherished here as a precious object connecting the material present with the illustrious past.

CORN-GROWING IN THE SOUTH.

Martin V. Calvin, director of the Georgia Experiment Station, has opened the eyes of the people of Georgia by showing in a letter to the Atlanta Constitution that the nine Cotton States of the South produced last year 61,000,000 bushels of corn more than the nine States of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas and Colorado, and, in addition, 9,646,780 bales of cotton weighing 500 pounds each and 2,500,000 tons of prime hay, besides many other profitable crops.

While the production of corn in the nine cotton growing States was 61,000,000 bushels in excess of the corn grown in the nine other States named, the yield per acre in the Cotton States was only 16.4 bushels, as compared with 31.3 bushels in the States selected for comparison. Mr. Calvin takes the very proper view, therefore, that what the South needs is not an increased corn crop but an increased yield of corn to the acre. This can be done by proper cultivation and by the intelligent use of commercial fertilizers.

Mr. Calvin shows that in 1905-'06 and '07, when 325 pounds of high grade fertilizer was used to the acre, the average yield of corn to the acre at the Georgia Experiment Station was, respectively, 44, 26,07 and 28.05 bushels. In 1908, when 354 pounds of fertilizer was used to the acre, the average yield was 35 bushels, and in 1909, when 355 pounds of fertilizer was used, the average yield was 40.6 bushels. This proves conclusively that the intelligent use of commercial fertilizers will bring good results. By such use the yield of the Southern fields can be made greater than the yield of the Northern and Western fields, and it is in the direction of more scientific cultivation that the farmers of the South should look for their profits.

Virginia grows a good deal of corn itself, and corn of a very high grade. The yield, according to the annual report of the Department of Agriculture in 1908 in this State was 50,500,000 bushels, and only the States of Texas, Georgia and Oklahoma, in the South, exceeded Virginia in the volume of the crop. Virginia is also an oat-growing and wheat-growing State, and all these crops could be largely increased, not by putting more acres under cultivation, but by better treatment of the acres already under cultivation.

There has been a steady improvement in agricultural methods throughout the South, but there is still vast room for improvement. The soil must be fed if the people are not to go hungry.

FUNERAL REFORM IN CHICAGO.

An enterprising concern in Chicago has undertaken the not very difficult task, we should think, of making the day of one's death in that town more comfortable than the day of one's birth, or the days of his living there. A great undertaking establishment has been founded for the purpose of reforming the conditions and cost of funeral services so that the rich and poor alike can enjoy complete funeral obsequies for the least money. At this place "comfortable rockers and a divan tempt the weary to rest awhile. All the furniture in the rooms is of heavy leather design." There are reception parlors, for ladies and connected with these a well-appointed dressing room. The walls are colored in a delicious green, and the arched windows are shaded by creamy curtains, the keynote of all the rooms being a color scheme of subdued richness. Three complete chapels are a part of the establishment, and these chapels are supplied with roomy opera chairs. "Their atmosphere is notably religious." Of course, a place has been reserved for the display of caskets and funeral supplies, and the principal show-room is spacious and well-arranged, and made so comfortable that the bereaved are assured that "the strain of selection is reduced to the minimum."

We are told that upwards of 500,000 persons live in hotels and boarding houses in Chicago, and the benefit of this new enterprise has appealed to the sympathy of those who are behind it and likewise doubtless to their money-making instinct. The company believes that undertaking is a business like any other, without special mystery or trade secrets, and it has determined to knock down the price of funerals to one-half of the ordinary charge. The concern has sixteen closely connected branches in the city, and they stand in to earn a very comfortable revenue from the business. There ought to be a great opportunity in Chicago for it, and while the business looks a little gruesome, it has to be done by somebody, and when it is done with regard to all the proprieties and for 50 per cent. less than it is done by anybody else, the enterprise that costs least is the enterprise that will succeed. Business is business.

A THIEF IN A PREACHER'S STUDY.

Last week, while the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, S. C., were holding prayer-meeting, a white boy about sixteen years old entered the study of the pastor, Dr. W. T. Sloan, and robbed it of "several valuable fountain pens, pencils, penknives, and a large number of trinkets necessary to the furnishing of a minister's study." "Trinkets?" In the study of a Presbyterian minister? There must be some mistake about that. Think of John Calvin in his study with a large number of trinkets, and fancy Jonathan Edwards surrounded by such vanities when he was writing his "Freedom of the Will," his "Nature of Virtue," and his "Original Sin!" There may have been some little objects of interest, but of little intrinsic value, except the fountain pens and knives, which were only the tools of his trade; but nothing, we are sure, in the nature of what the world generally regards as trinkets. The Greenville Piedmont says:

"When Dr. Sloan discovered that a robber had intruded into his study he was very much worried, but upon a further investigation which revealed to him that no sermons, theological treatises, commentaries or other literary productions had been disturbed, his mind was more at ease. He was not so much disturbed over the loss of the pens and trinkets as he would have been if the other articles had been removed."

We hope that the thief did not get away with his copy of "Rouse's Version of the Psalms," which, of course, he must prize above all his other religious possessions. In its time it was "more smooth and agreeable to the text than any hitherto," and for the reason that it is not filled with poetry of the two-step order, it is worth preserving at least as one of the curiosities of our religious development.

The sneak thief who robbed the pastor's study appears to be a hopeless creature, as he has already served several sentences in reformatories.

Onancock is receiving much praise from the press of the State for the hospitable manner in which the Virginia Press Association was treated there. The Clifton Forge Review says:

"While in Onancock we found the people loyal to their town, united in every undertaking for its advancement and ready to make any reasonable sacrifice to push Onancock to the front. This same spirit was manifested among the rooters at the ball game that was in progress on the afternoon of our arrival. The players were cheered when they made a good play or acquitted themselves with credit at the bat, and an error and poor batting brought forth words of sympathy instead of hisses and abuse. There are scores of towns and cities in Virginia that need to send representatives to Onancock for inspiration and lessons on how to stand and work together when the interests of the community are at stake. Another striking thing about Onancock is the pride the people take in their homes. All the residences are modern in appearance and are surrounded by large yards with a liberal display of shade trees and flowers. We consider ourselves repaid for our visit to Onancock because we learned many things worth while, chief among them being the loyalty and enthusiasm of the people of that town."

Verily, Onancock must be a model place.

The Sussex Standard places another name before Governor Mann for consideration in selecting a successor to Senator Daniel. It says:

"If Governor Mann is halting between several friends in the matter of appointing a United States Senator to succeed Daniel, suppose he takes the bold course of appointing his old-time enemy, the Hon. Harry Saint George Tucker. Would it be a happy solution of an embarrassing situation?"

Are there any further nominations, gentlemen?

President Campbell, of the Virginia Press Association, this week in his Amherst New Era cites in full what The Times-Dispatch has had to say about the fine time that Onancock gave the newspaper men on their trip, and then adds:

"It is not overdone; we were there and saw and tasted, and know whereof we speak. A lovely county—a fine people. Virginians in reality."

What the president says goes!

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

Mad King of Bavaria.
Who is the "Mad King" of Bavaria?
H. K. S.
Otto, who is shut up in a chateaux, the kingdom being governed by his uncle as regent.

Colored Men in Civil Service.
Can a colored man be appointed to a position in the civil service?
Yes.

Snipe Season.
What is the snipe season in Virginia?
January 1 to July 20.

Mann-Kent Vote.
What was the vote in the contest for Governor between Kent and Mann?
Mann, 68,570; Kent, 36,249.

President for a Day.
Who was President for a day?
No one. D. R. Atkinson, of Missouri, has been sometimes given that title, since he was President of the Senate when Polk went out of the presidency on Saturday and Taylor was not sworn in until Monday. Atchison was, however, not in any sense President.

Wife's Property Rights.
Can a woman hold property separate from her husband in this State?
Yes.

Work of Corporation Commission.
Who is clerk of the State Corporation Commission?
R. T. Wilson.

Distribution of Estate.
If a man dies, leaving a wife and three children, how is the estate divided in Virginia?
One-third to wife, the rest equally divided among the children.

USHER OF WHITE ROD WILL GET BIG FEES

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

SCOTLAND'S High Court has on appeal granted a decision in favor of the holders of the office and prerogatives of the usher of the white rod to the crown of Scotland. The defendants in the case are the lord advocate of Scotland, representing the British treasury, and a number of titled Scotchmen, including Lord Leith of Fyvie, who, it may be remembered, married the daughter of Derrick A. January, of St. Louis, and who, after acquiring a fortune in the steel business, in which he embarked in America on leaving the royal navy, to wed Miss January, returned to England, bought Fyvie Castle, and was created a peer.

The effect of this decision of the highest court of appeal in Scotland is that not only every Scotchman, but also every Englishman having a home in Scotland, on receiving any title from the crown, may pay certain fees, to a considerable amount, to the holders of the office of white rod.

The office of usher of the white rod of Scotland was created by King William the Lion, of Scotland, who bestowed it upon his natural son, William de Londonnis, and in that ancient compilation of laws and customs known as the "Regiam Magistratum," mention is to be found of a certain "Thomas le Usser." Robert II., by a patent dated 1373, and still in existence, bestowed the office of white rod of Scotland upon Alexander de Cockburn and his heirs, directing him as such to "attend upon the sovereign at parliaments and feasts," and further decreeing that he should have "an allowance for two men in armor, two archers, sword-bearers, and their families." Robert III. gave a crown charter of confirmation in favor of Alexander de Cockburn, besides conferring upon him the baronies of Langtoune, of Boltoune, and of Carrodyne.

Mary, Queen of Scots, ignoring the hereditary rights of the Cockburns of Langtoune, in Berwickshire, gave the office to John, fifth Earl of Fleming, while Charles I., on his accession to the throne, accorded it to James Maxwell, of Innerwick, and went so far as to order the imprisonment of Sir William Cockburn for having appeared on the opening of Parliament carrying a white wand before the King without having received authority or summons. In 1681 the Cockburn of the day, however, received from the crown confirmation in the office. But in 1757 his descendant, the head of the house of Cockburn for the time being, became bankrupt, and his barony of Langdoune and his hereditary office of usher of the white rod were sold, by order of the Court of Session at Edinburgh, for the benefit of his creditors. In 1766 the Cockburns managed to repurchase the office of white rod, but were obliged to sell it again in 1790, the purchaser on this occasion being Sir Richard Campbell, who is said to have paid as much as $60,000 for the office.

In 1805 the office of white rod again came into the market, and was bought by William Walker, of Coats, for his son Patrick. This transaction was officially confirmed, and Patrick Walker appeared as usher of the white rod of Scotland at the coronation of George IV. at Westminster Abbey in 1821, and was knighted by the King on that occasion. When he died without issue the ushership purchased for him by his father passed, along with his estate, by the terms of his will, to his two sisters, Barbara and Mary Walker. They left money to build the Episcopal Cathedral Church of St. Mary's, at Edinburgh, and founded for that object the Walker trust.

At Queen Victoria's coronation the claims of their nominee or deputy, Colonel Ainslie, were not allowed; but at Edward VII.'s coronation the nominee of the Walker trust was more successful, and Sir George Anderson, treasurer of the Bank of Scotland, was present on behalf of the Walker trustees in Westminster as usher of the white rod of Scotland during the ceremony. In 1898 the treasury commuted the salary of the office, namely, $1,250 a year, at about twenty-seven years' purchase, and an amount of $30,000 was thereby added to the Walker trust fund. This, however, did not in any way impair the right of the office of usher of the white rod of Scotland to exact fees payable by dukes, marquesses, earls and viscounts, as well as baronets and knights, on their creation.

Of course, this right, when originally bestowed, had merely Scottish honors in view. But when Scotland was joined to England a couple of hundred years ago, the claims of the usher of the white rod were quietly and automatically extended to all the titles of the United Kingdom, since no more purely Scottish peerages, baronetcies or knighthoods were to be created subsequently to the union. These claims were tacitly allowed, and until six years ago the Board of Green Cloth, presided over by the lord steward of the royal household in London, collected these fees and remitted them to the trustees.

The matter was brought to the attention of King Edward, and a doubt having been thereby raised in his mind as to the right of the Walker trustees to collect any such fees, the Board of Green Cloth declined to act any longer in the matter, leaving the trustees to do their own collecting. The treasury, to which the Walker trustees then appealed, took a similar attitude, and expressed its opinion that the fees were limited to purely Scottish honors.

Strengthened by this attitude on the part of the sovereign and of the treasury, nearly all the peers, baronets and knights who have been created since 1904 have resisted the demands of the trustees, and there are at present no less than 200 knights alone who have refrained from paying anything, defying the trustees to do their worst, well knowing that the latter cannot deprive them of their honors or unknight them.

The trustees thereupon invoked the assistance of the Scotch courts, which have, on appeal, decided in their favor, on the ground that the right had been continuously exercised for centuries until 1904, with the apparently unanimous consent of all parties. If no further appeal be made in the case to the House of Lords, which is the final resort, the Walker trustees—that is to say, the trustees managing the building and endowment fund of St. Mary's Church at Edinburgh—will, since none of the Walker family remain alive, be able to recover the fees due to them from all delinquent titled personages who have property in Scotland. If, however, the matter is carried to appeal, and the Scotch decision is confirmed by the House of Lords, as it undoubtedly will be, then every person who has received a title since 1904 in England, or anywhere else in the United Kingdom, and who has refrained from paying the customary fees to the usher of the white rod, or Walker trust, will be compelled to effect a settlement.

While the barter and sale of the ushership of the white rod of Scotland has thus continued until comparatively recent times, the practice of this selling a bankrupt peer's other hereditary honors for the benefit of his creditors has long since been abandoned, and it is easy to conceive what an outcry would ensue if the present government were to propose to revive this practice. While, of course, it would bring the great names and illustrious titles of the peerage into the possession of people with nothing but wealth, perhaps of a tainted nature, to recommend them, it would at the same time have the effect of ridding the peerage of spendthrifts, who through their own extravagance have involved themselves in more debts than they could ever hope to pay, their titles and honors being auctioned off for the benefit of their creditors.